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general demand of our school curricula for this subject. The book is primarily the elaboration of the laboratory directions and notes of a Missouri normal school course and has grown to its present form after two revisions. It is a volume of four hundred and fifty pages, well edited and excellently illustrated by about one hundred and seventy cuts and halftones. The scope of the work is comprehensive; the soil, principles of animal and plant feeding, plant breeding and improvement, milk production and its care, are all efficiently treated by exposition and experiment. Explicit directions are given for the laboratory work, the author's aim being in every case to make the student discover his own facts whenever this is practicable. Facts and principles of geology, botany, chemistry and physics essential to an understanding of agricultural principles and processes are given. The discussions are so simple and clear as to make the book valuable in the private library as well as in the school.

ORREN LLOYD JONES.

Hillside, Wis.

Jevons, F. B. *An Introduction to the Study of Comparative Religion.* Pp. 283. Price, \$1.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1908.

This work consists of a series of the Hartford-Samson lectures delivered before the students of Hartford Theological Seminary, by the author. In this study both the differences and the resemblances of various religions are discussed, and the points of connection between the lower and higher forms are emphasized. The history of religion is regarded as the experience of man in his search for God, the duty of the religious teacher is to continue man in the search, leading him from the lower to the higher beliefs.

Immortality, magic, fetichism, prayer, sacrifice and morality are dealt with in successive chapters. The influence of each belief upon the mind of the uncivilized and the semi-civilized is illustrated, as well as the manner in which Christianity may be practically connected with some of these religious ideas, forming from them a basis for its reception. On the other hand magic and fetichism are condemned as antisocial, and opposed to the religious instinct. The evolution of religious ideas and practices is indicated by tracing the influence of physical and psychical phenomena upon the savage, and his attempts to explain the same and to harmonize his being with such explanations.

In the chapter on morality, the author uses a strong chain of reasoning to prove that morality is based on religion, and not religion on morality. In the lowest stages of development, offences punished by the community were regarded as "offences against the gods of the community," rather than against man's laws. Justice has been evolved from "collective action," rather than "individual resentment" resulting in the taboo of the offender.

In the final chapter the plan of Christianity in the evolution of religion is determined. The individual exists as a member of society seeking com-

munion with God, and society exists as a means which has its end in the love of God—the basis of Christianity. Christianity surpasses all other religions by regarding the individual as existing eternally, and society as realizing its supreme end in the next world. The measure of the vitality of Christianity is represented by the extent to which missionary activities are pushed.

This volume shows a scientific and religious grasp of a wide subject, and as a condensation of material is invaluable to students of religion and missionary activity.

S. EDWIN RUPP.

Lebanon, Pa.

Lowell, A. Lawrence. *The Government of England.* 2 vols. Pp. xxii, 1133. Price, \$4.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1908.

Professor Lowell has given us an exact, comprehensive and sympathetic review of English institutions. His eleven hundred pages of text are the best—in fact the only adequate, treatment of the entire field. Excellent special studies have appeared in recent years—notably those by Sidney and Beatrice Webb, on English Local Government—but Professor Lowell is the first to give us a synthetic view of all the important national institutions.

The plan of the book naturally arranges itself about the central government, the treatment of which occupies the first four hundred and thirty-five pages. Those who read for entertainment will find this portion hardest to appreciate. The framework of government and the inter-relations of departments are not subjects easy to interpret in a popular way. For the student, however, the discussion is full of accurate statement and criticism. A review cannot mention all the branches treated in a work of this size, nor point out the significant contrasts drawn. Of especial interest to Americans is the treatment of the cabinet's control of the house of commons—the point at which perhaps the governments of England and of the United States stand in sharpest contrast. Bill procedure in parliament and the control of appropriations are subjects bringing out especially instructive comparisons with our own unsatisfactory arrangements.

The second portion discusses the local governments. Professor Lowell brings out strongly the contrast between the conditions of English municipal government and those in the United States. The Englishman constantly complains about the inefficiency of his private business organizations, but takes a justifiable pride in the administration of his cities. The converse is true with us. The attitude of the individual largely determines the general result.

The most pleasing portions of the book to the average reader and the portions in which the author shows greatest ease of style are those treating of institutions not directly connected with the frame of government. To describe legal relations is to a large extent a formal task, to describe the spirit of a people and interpret their social characteristics and organizations is one which requires a higher degree of sympathetic appreciation. Professor Lowell's success in the latter particular makes the second volume the one